Mo- and W-Fiber Reinforced SiCN Ceramic Matrix Composites based on PIP process

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DLR

Overview

- Introduction and motivation
- Properties of Mo- and W-fibers
- Manufacture of Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN composites
- Mechanical properties of composites
- Microstructure and phase analysis of composites
- Summary and outlook

Introduction and motivation

- Monolithic ceramics are brittle, have high stiffness and low fracture strain, but show catastrophic failure when overloaded
- Ceramic fiber reinforced ceramic matrix composites show graceful failure when overloaded, but still have low fracture strain (compared to metals)
- Metal fiber reinforced ceramic matrix composites are very little known, however, could be interesting due to higher fracture strain of metallic fibers
- Ceramic matrices are more oxidation and corrosion resistant as well as light-weight compared to molybdenum and tungsten

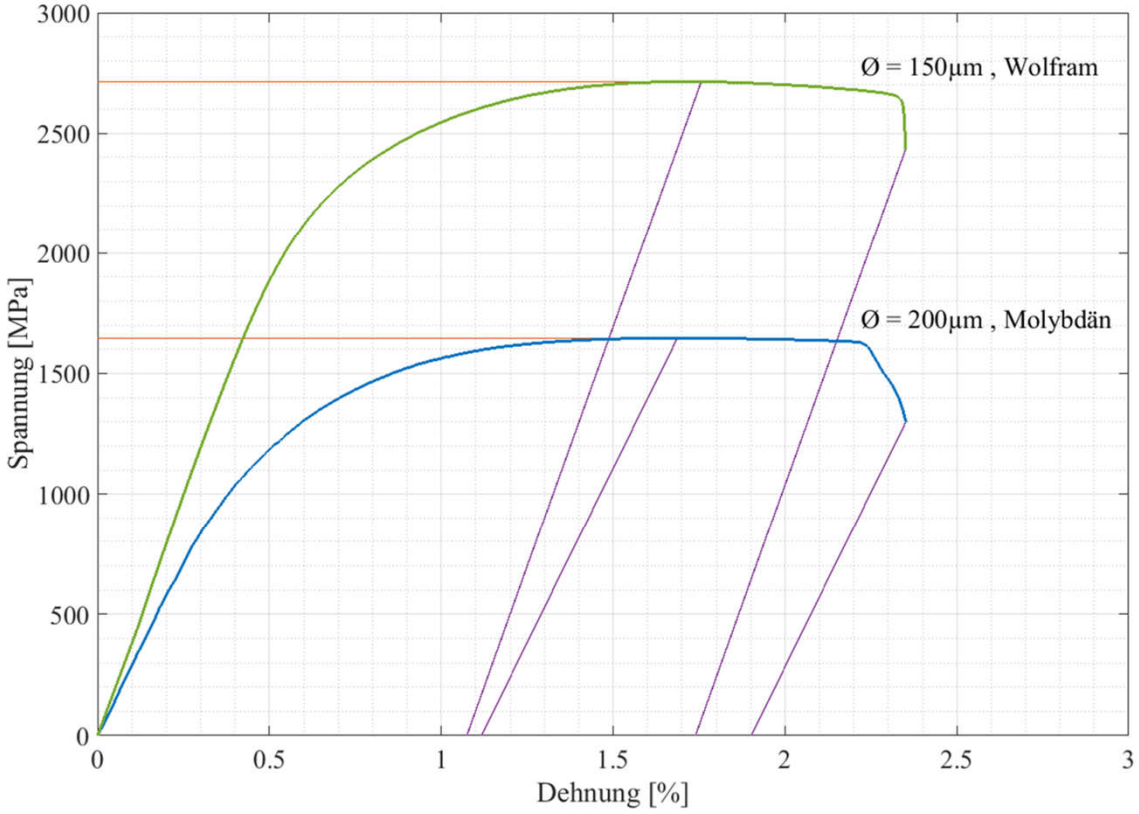
Physical and mechanical properties of Mo- and W-fibers

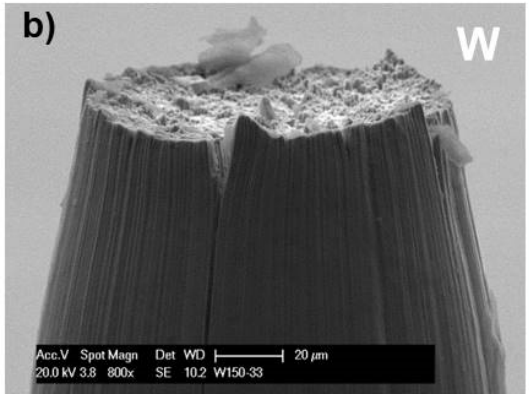
Fiber type		Tungsten BSD-OG-102045280100	Molybdenum MOA-B6144601XX42
Manufacturer		Osram	Osram
Diameter	µm	150	200
Density	g/cm³	19.250	10.220
Yield strength	MPa	1855±18	1207±5
Tensile strength	MPa	2780±27	1647±1
Tensile modulus	GPa	(400)*	287±2
Fracture strain	%	1.85±0.05	1.9±0.1
Reduction in area	%	38.5±0.7	70.2±0.2
K content	ppm	70-80	150-200

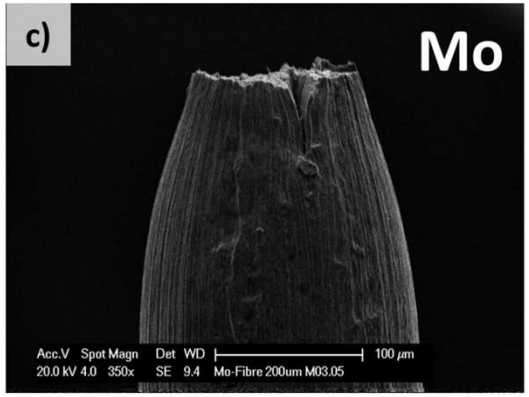
*) The measurements of the W wire were normalized to a Young's modulus of 400 GPa to allow comparability

Tensile testing of single Mo- and W-fibers

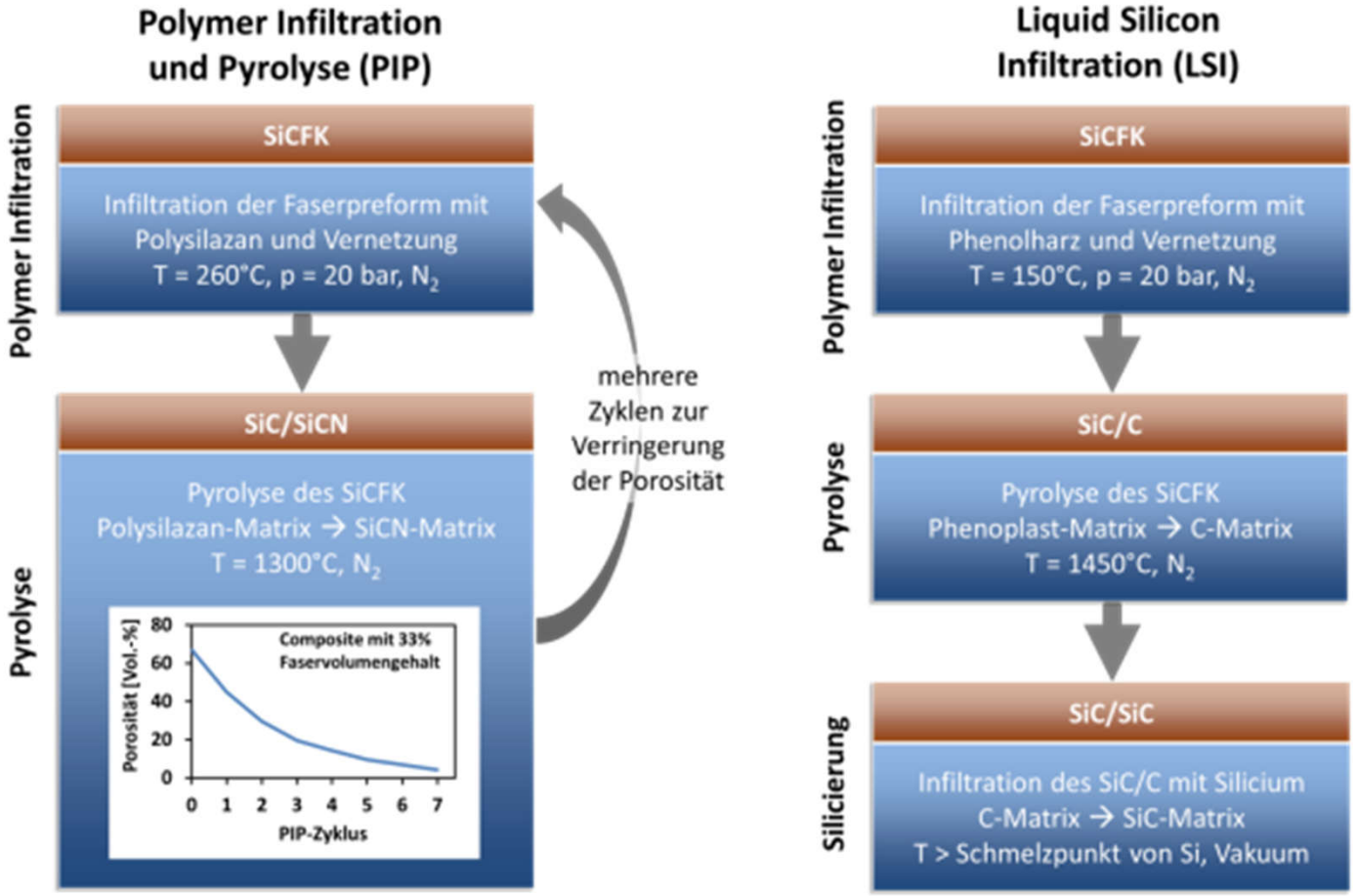
a)



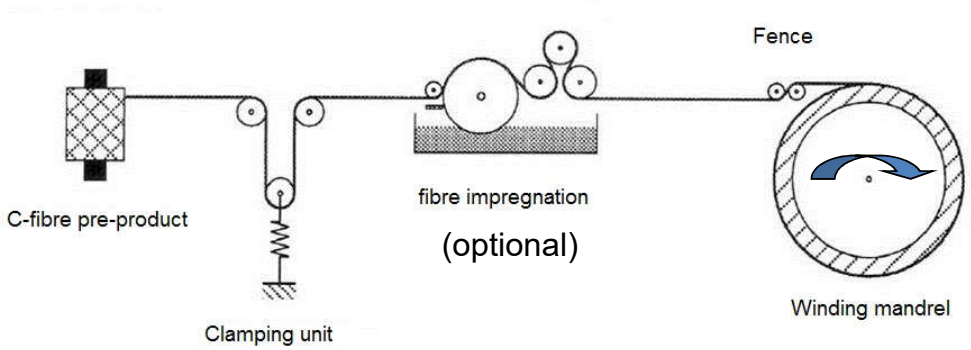


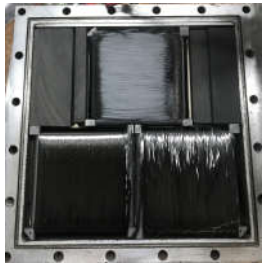


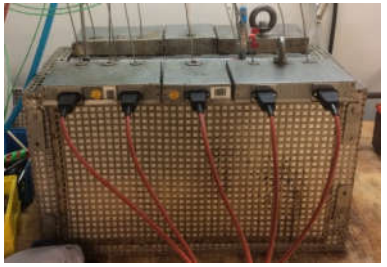
Manufacture of Mo- and W-fiber ceramic matrix composites



Preform manufacture – dry filament winding







Raw materials and equipment:

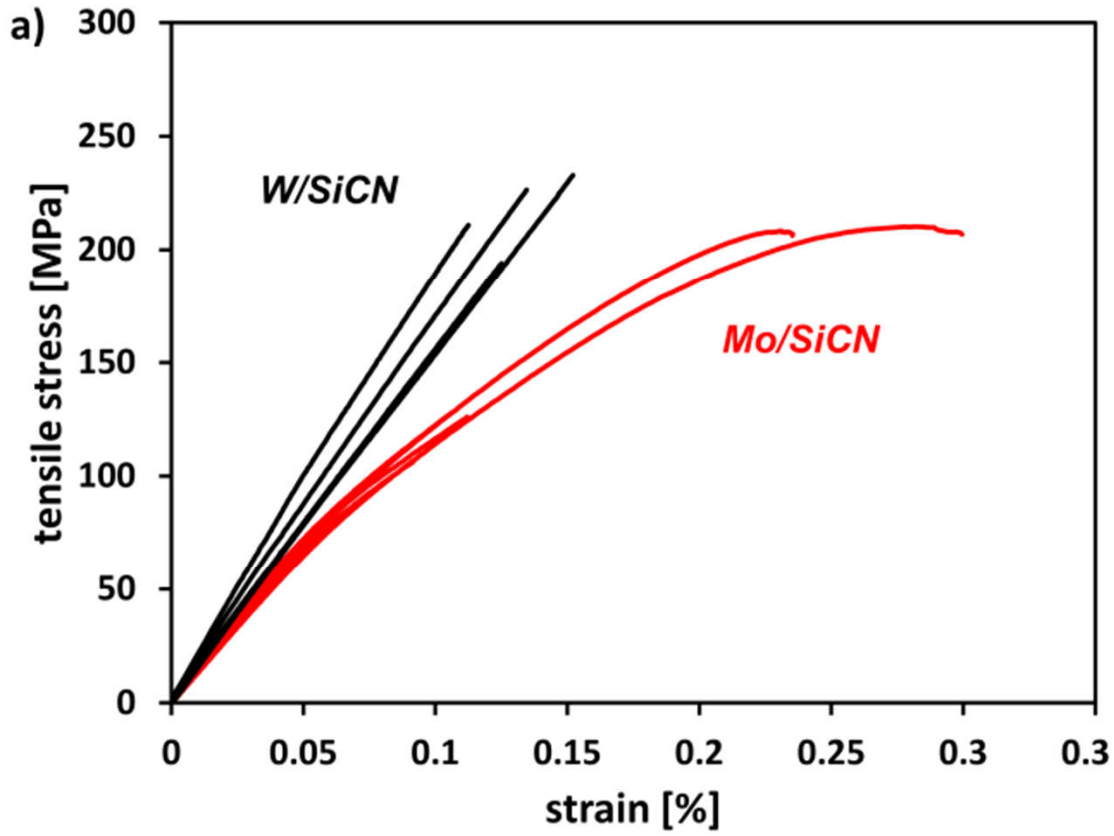
- Mo- or W-fibers
- Filament winding machine controlling winding speed and angle
- Graphite mandrel equipped with Teflon tape
- Precursor PSZ10 (polysilazane resin) for RTM infiltration and curing
- Steel mould for RTM infiltration and curing under pressure

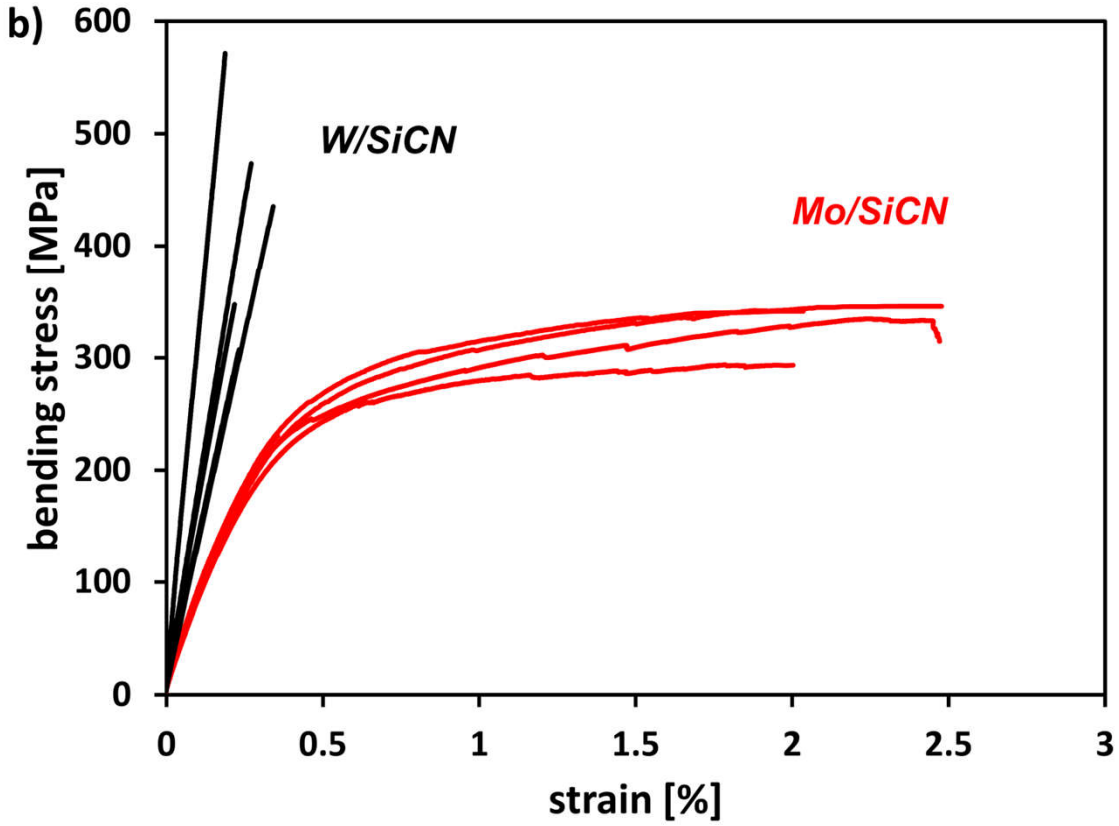
Properties of Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN composites

Composite type		W/SiCN	Mo/SiCN
Fiber volume content	%	25 (33*)	30
Tensile strength	MPa	206±27	156±50
Tensile modulus	GPa	172±19	144±7
Tensile fracture strain	%	0.126±0.018	0.164±0.086
Bending strength	MPa	427±105	312±50
Bending modulus	GPa	193±89	90±6
Bending fracture strain	%	0.24±0.08	2.02±0.93
Density	g/cm³	7.72	4.44
Porosity	Vol.-%	6.86	10.07
Density (calculated)	g/cm³	6.38 (7.74)	4.44

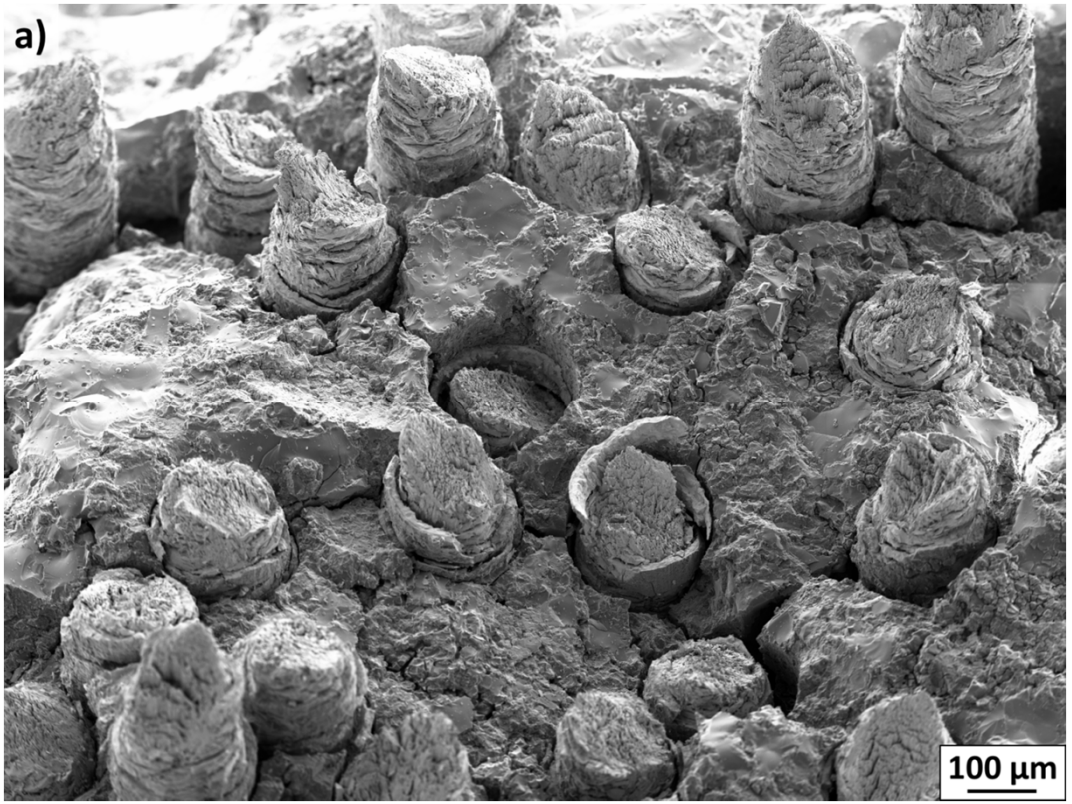
*calculated by asuming 2.30 g/cm³ for density of SiCN

Tensile and bending testing of Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN

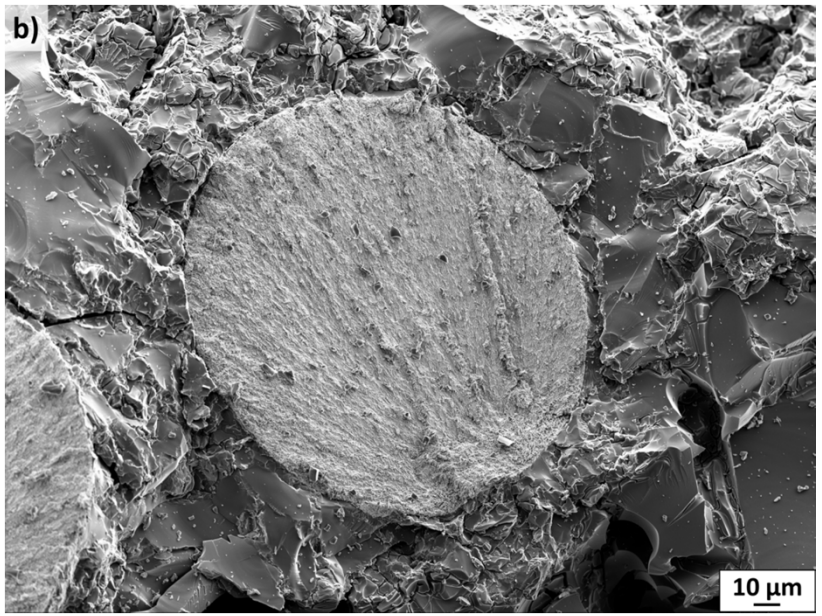




Fracture surface of Mo/SiCN (le.) and W/SiCN (ri.)



Fracture surface of Mo/SiCN (le.) and W/SiCN (ri.)



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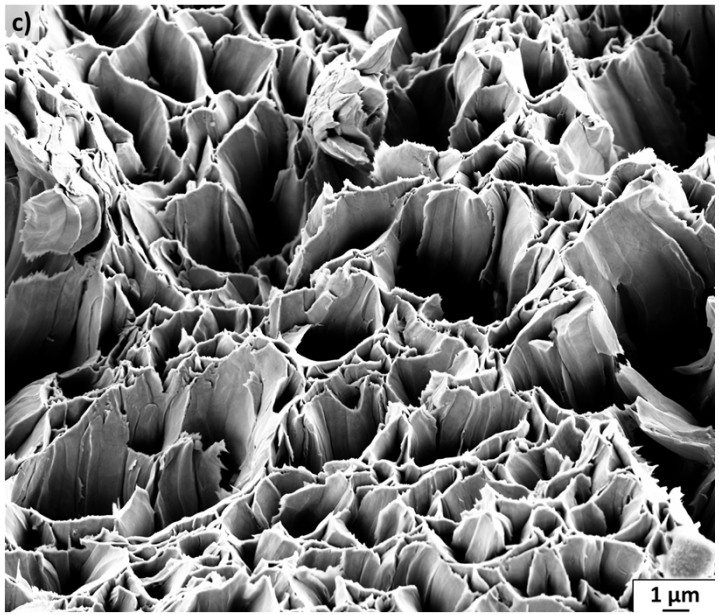
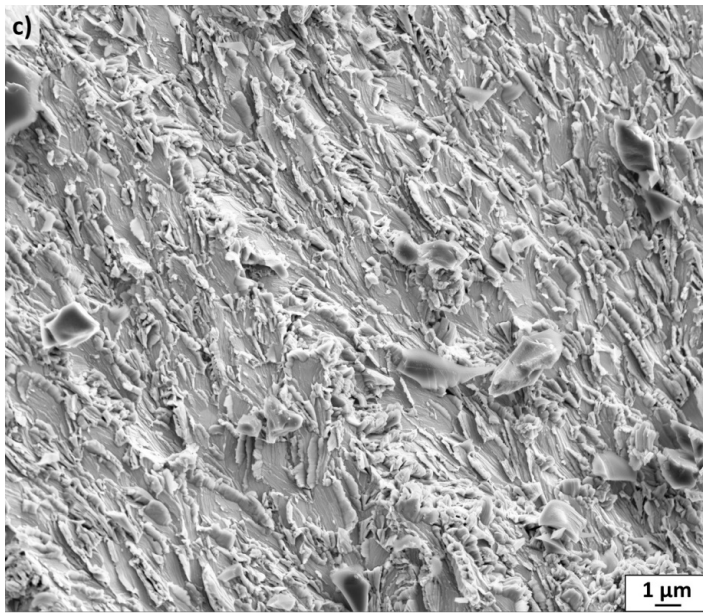
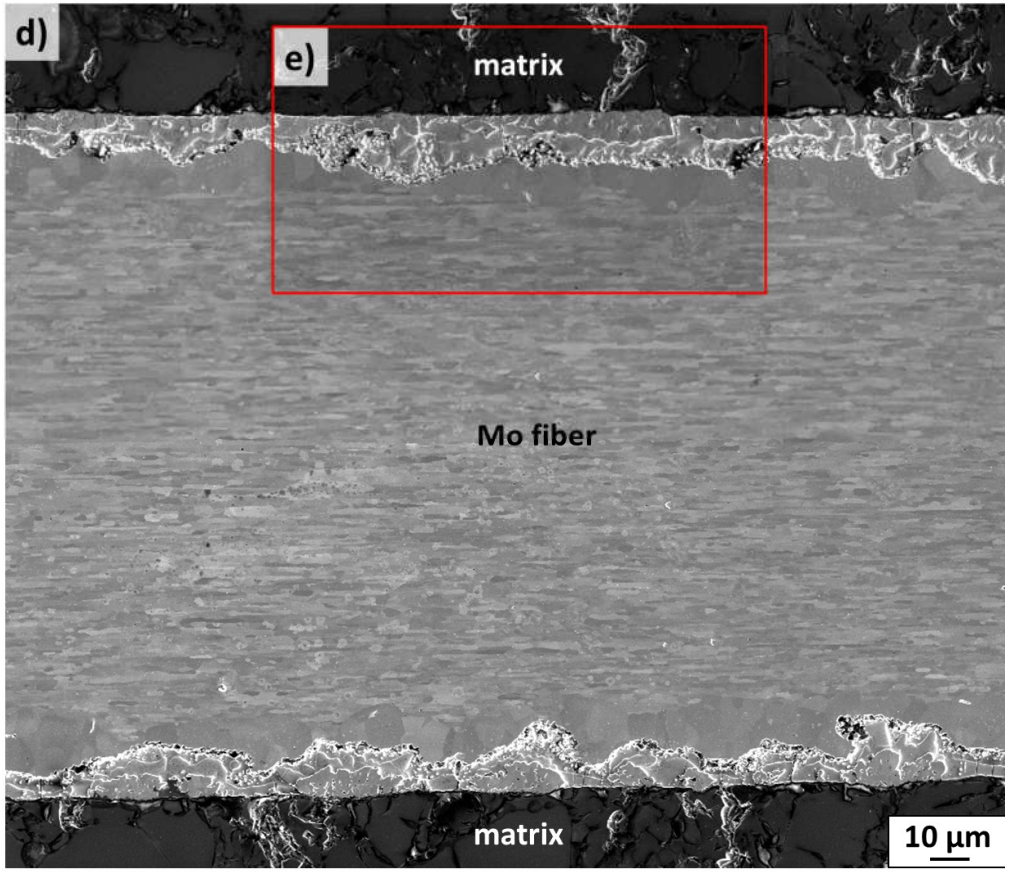
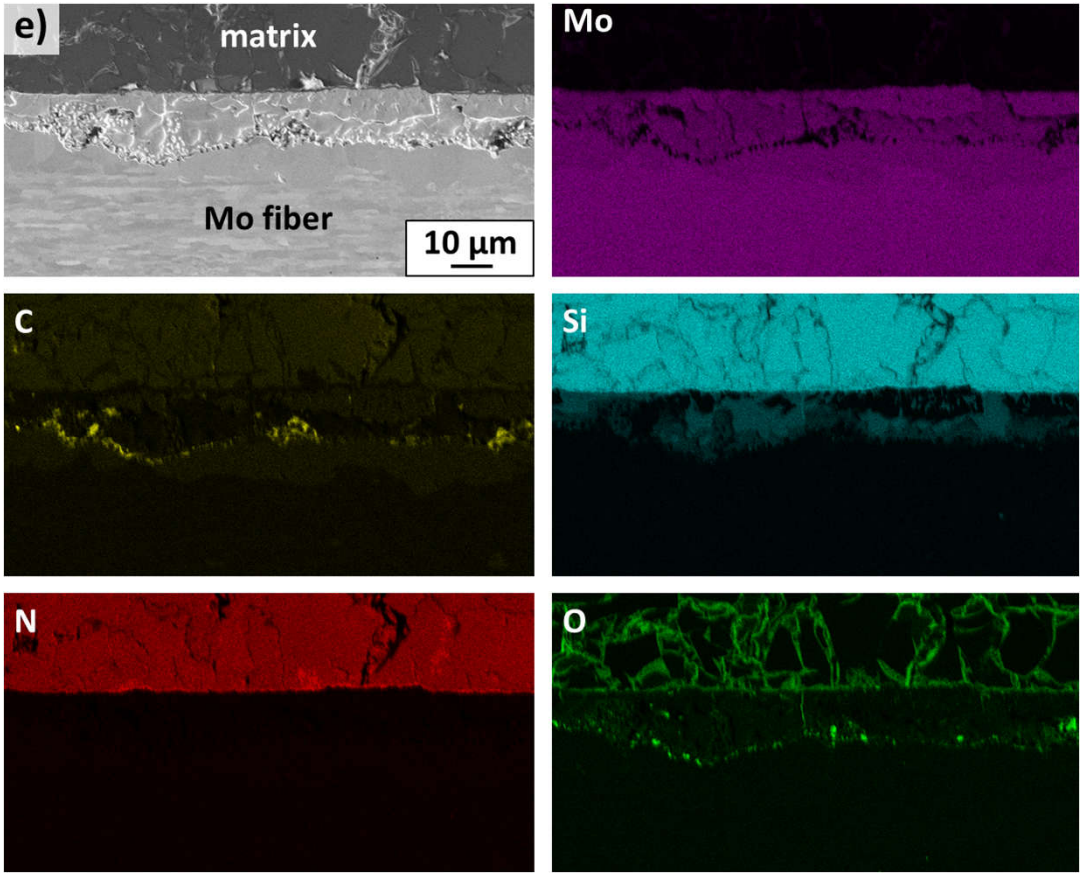


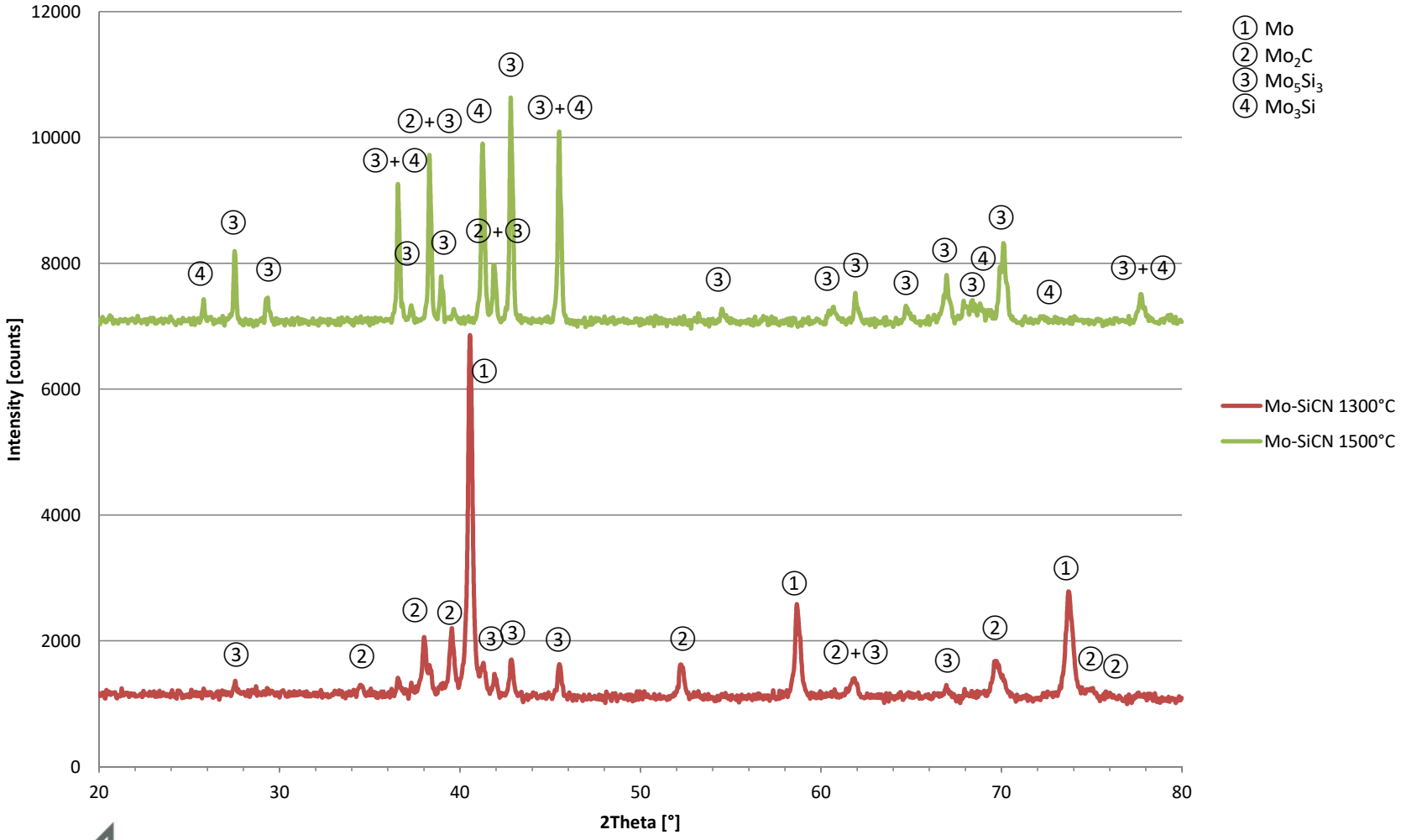


Microstructure of Mo/SiCN





Crystallization of Mo/SiCN (XRD)

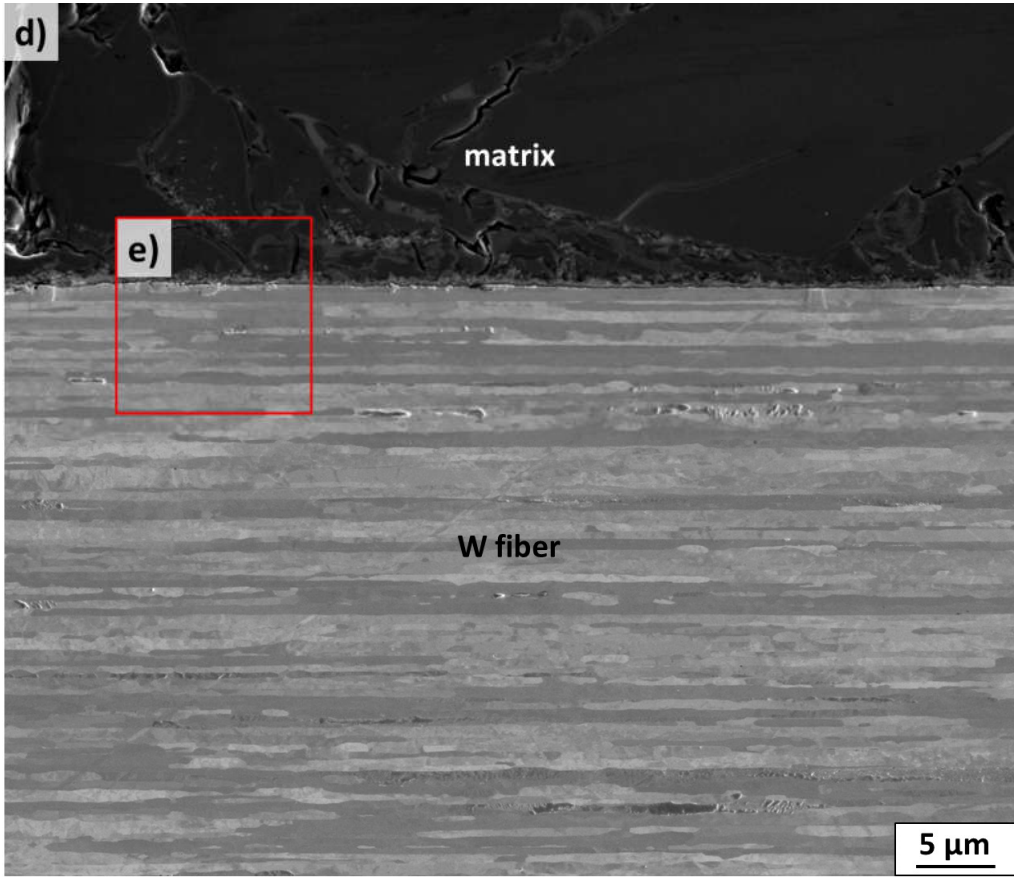


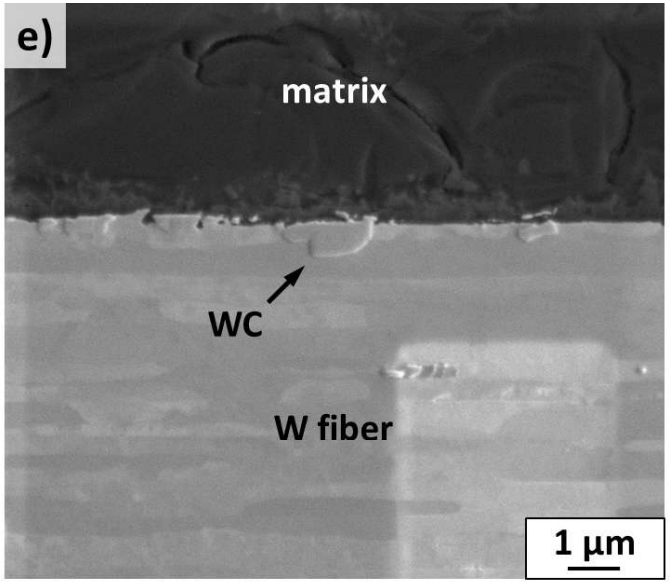
Detected phases

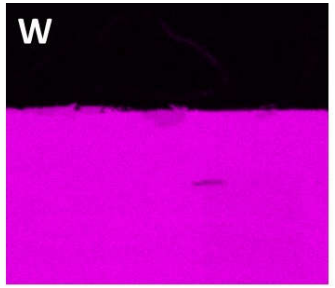
@1500°C
- Mo
- Mo_2C
- Mo_5Si_3
- Mo_3Si

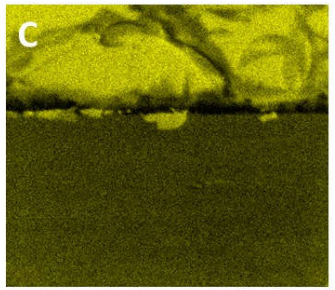
@1300°C
- Mo
- Mo_2C
- Mo_5Si_3

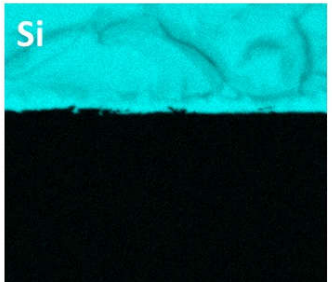
Microstructure of W/SiCN

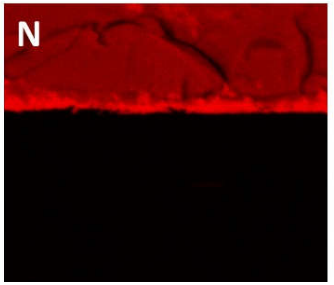


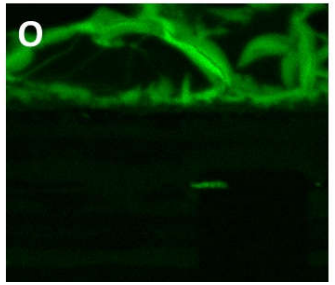


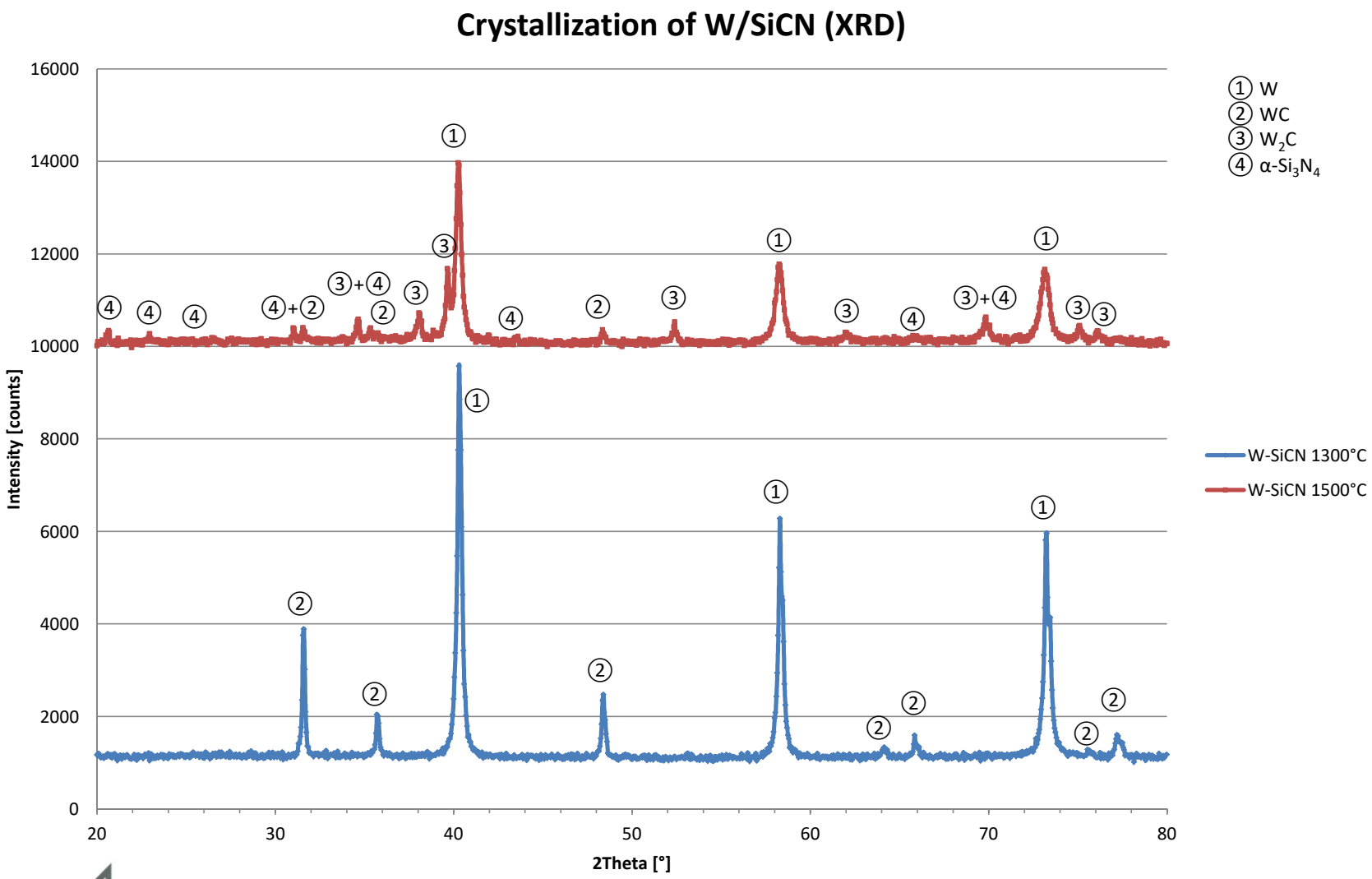










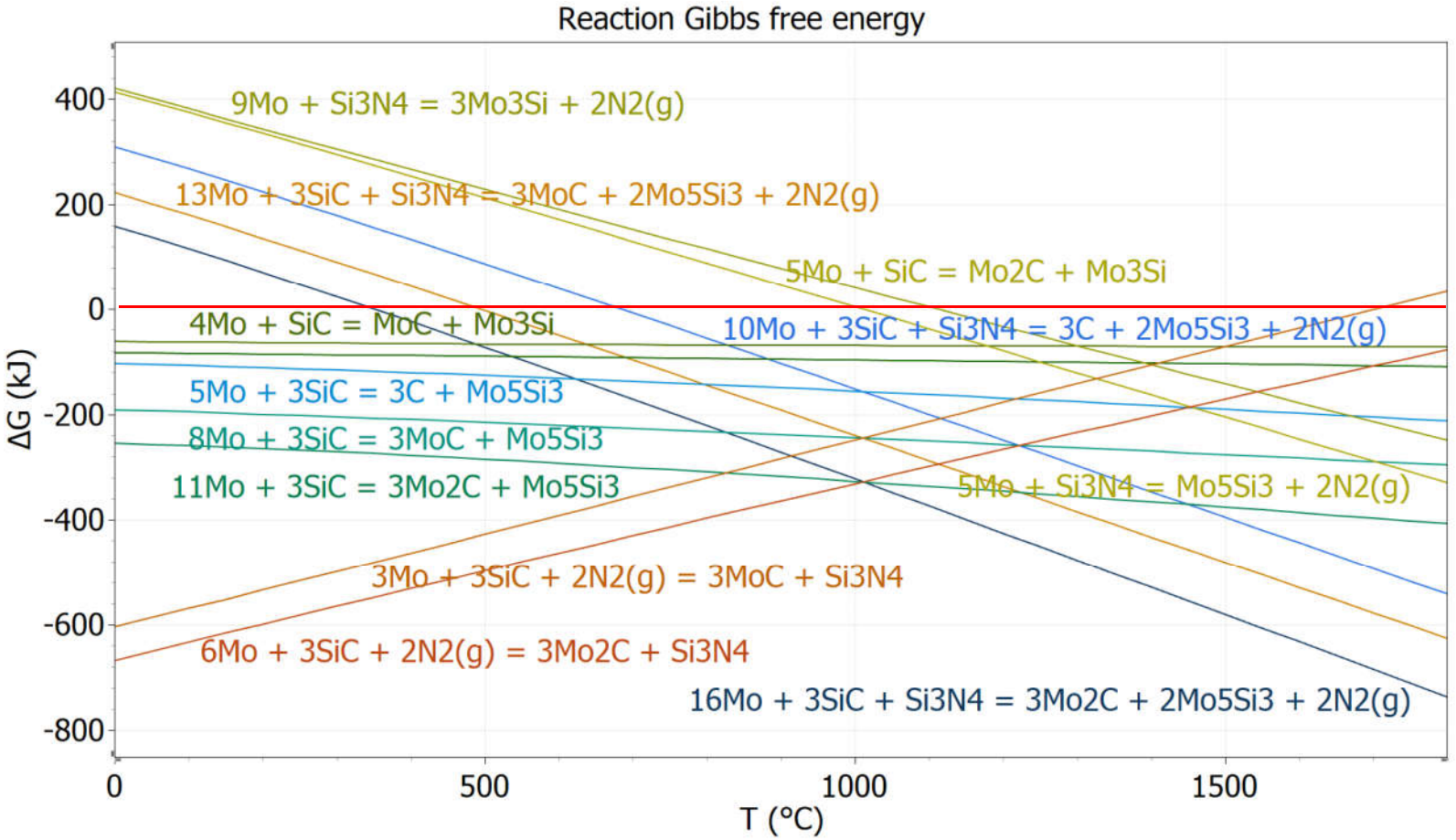


Detected phases

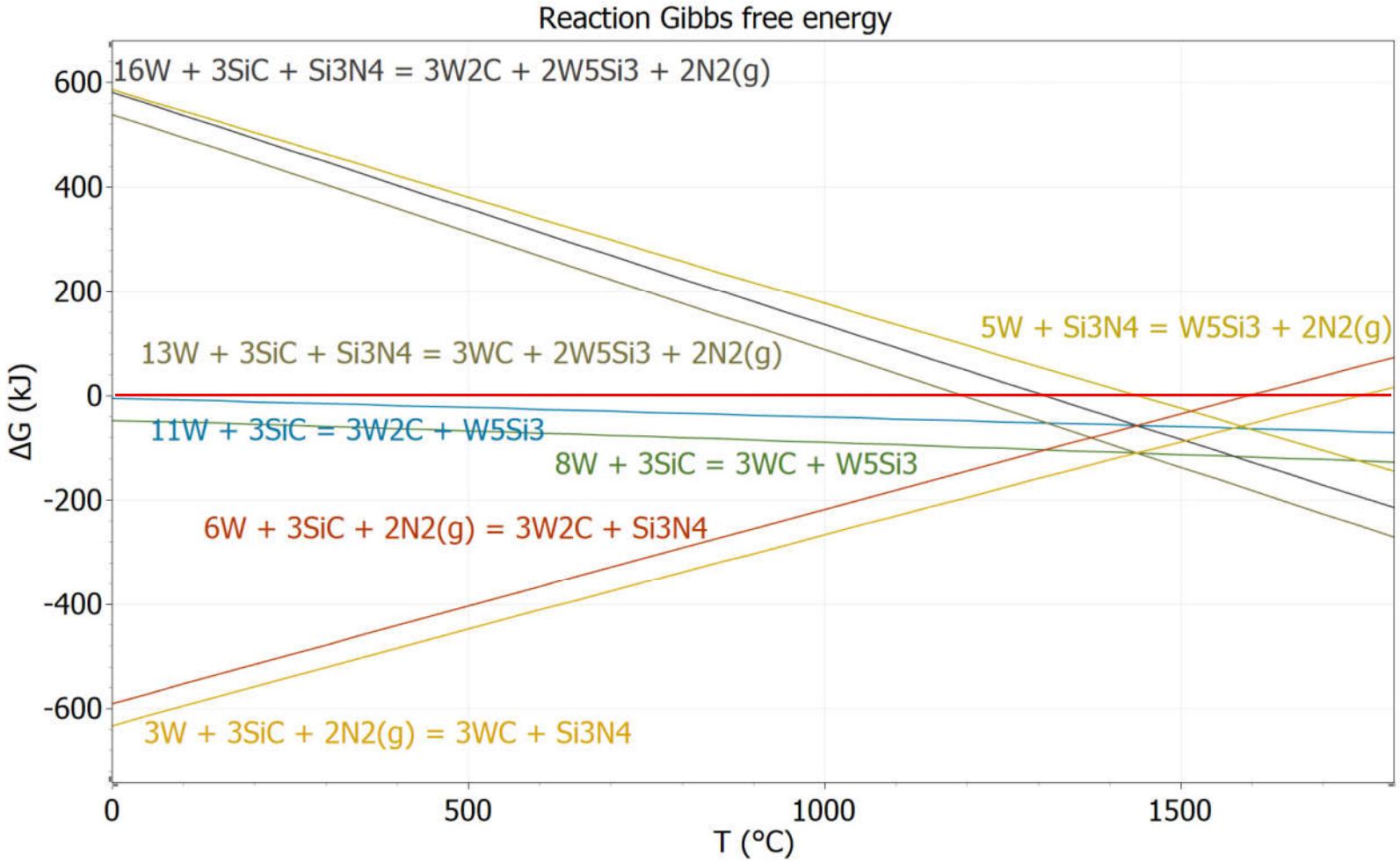
@1500°C
- W
- WC
- W_2C
- A-Si_3N_4
- Mo_3Si

@1300°C
- W
- WC

Preference of Reactions of Mo



Preference of Reactions of W



Viable reactions of Mo and W with PSZ10 and SiCN

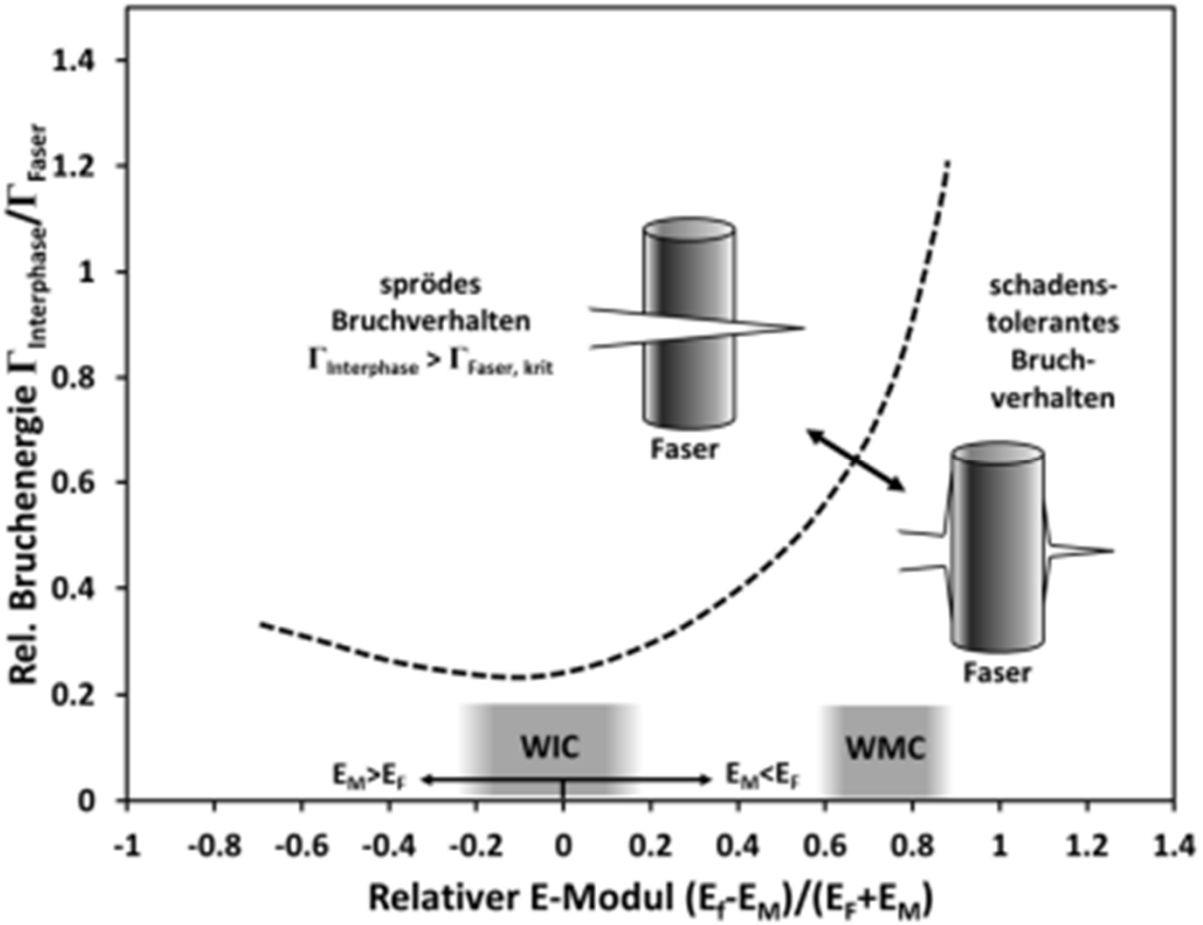
- **Mo + PSZ10** **→1300°C→** **Mo + Mo_5Si_3 + Mo_2C + SiCN + $NH_3\uparrow$ + $CH_4\uparrow$**
- **Mo + SiCN** **→1500°C→** **Mo_5Si_3 + Mo_3Si + Mo_2C + $N_2\uparrow$**
  $4Mo + Mo_5Si_3 \leftrightarrow 3Mo_3Si$
  $5Mo + Si_3N_4 \leftrightarrow Mo_5Si_3 + 2N_2\uparrow$ **(mass loss! TG ok)**
- **Mo + SiCN** **→1700°C→** **Mo_5Si_3 + MoN + β-SiC + $N_2\uparrow$**

- **W + PSZ10** **→1300°C→** **W + WC + SiCN + $NH_3\uparrow$ + $CH_4\uparrow$**
- **W + SiCN** **→1500°C→** **W + W_2C + WC + Si_3N_4**
  $W + WC \leftrightarrow W_2C$
  $3W + 3SiC + 2N_2 \leftrightarrow 3WC + Si_3N_4$ **(mass gain! TG ok)**
- **W + SiCN** **→1700°C→** **W_2C + WC + WN_2 + β-SiC + $N_2\uparrow$**

First mechanical models of Mo/SiCN- and W/SiCN

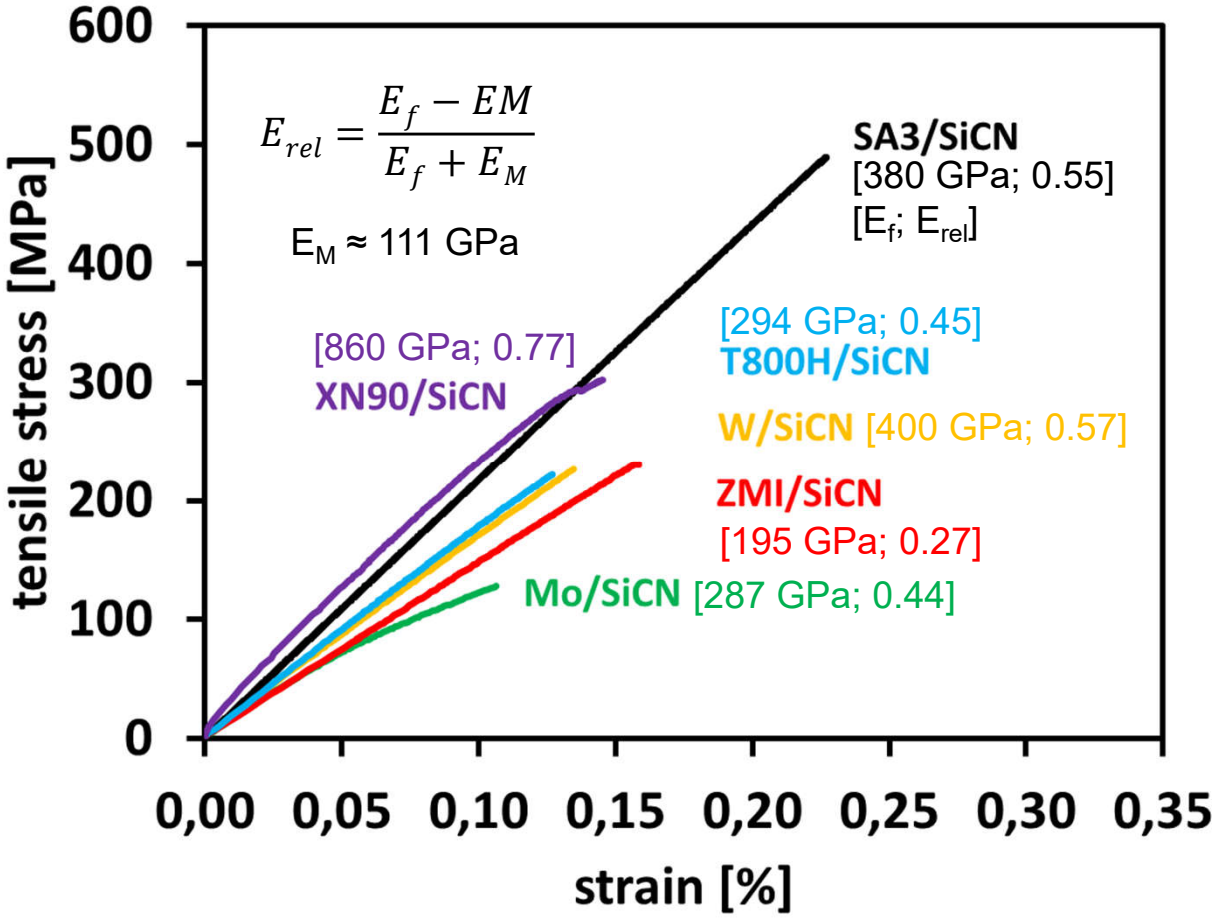
- Application of the model of He and Hutchinson to the new composites Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN
- Comparison to other fiber reinforced SiCN composites based on C- and SiC-fibers
- First estimations and explanations on fracture behaviour as well as damage tolerance of such composites can be predicted

Damage-tolerant and brittle fracture behaviour of CMCs
(Concept of He and Hutchinson)



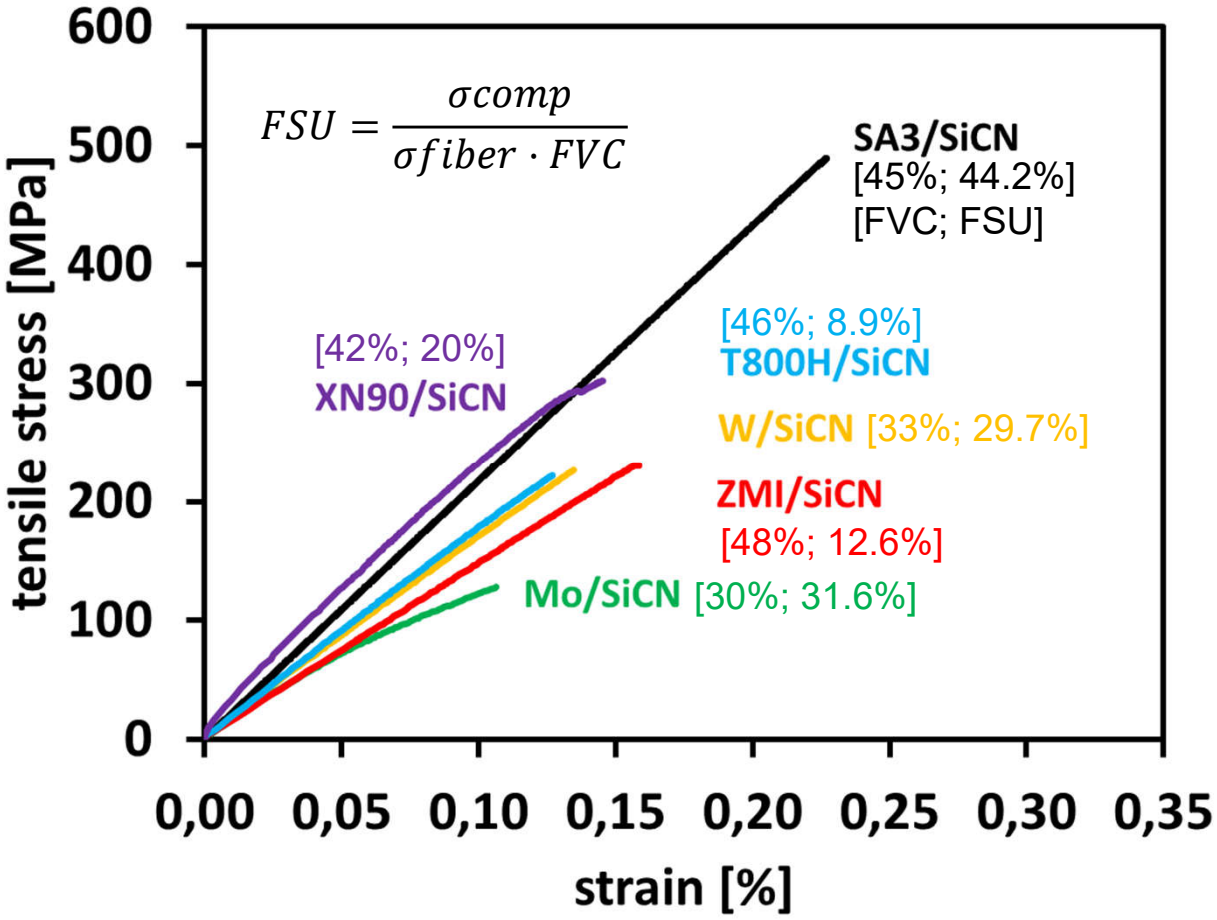
Tensile testing of various UD-fiber reinforced SiCN II

[E_f: Young's modulus of fiber; E_{rel}: relative Young's modulus of fiber and matrix]



Tensile testing of various UD-fiber reinforced SiCN I

[FVC: fiber volume content; FSU: fiber strength utilisation]



Summary and outlook I

- Mo- and W-fiber reinforced CMCs can be easily manufactured via polymer infiltration and pyrolysis at 1300 °C (PIP)
- Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN composites are light-weight in comparison to Mo/Mo and W/W composites
- Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN show increased fracture strain compared to CMCs
- Mo/SiCN and W/SiCN can be considered as WMCs and thus need no weak interphase
- Microstructural and phase analyses have shown that Mo- and W-fibers are still present and thermally resistant in the SiCN matrix even at 1300 °C
- Thermodynamical calculations strongly recommend an additional fiber coating from C-attack!

Summary and outlook II

- Microstructural and phase analyses have shown that Mo- and W-fibers suffer from surfacial attack, mainly by C-based materials
- Applying a coating as reaction barrier (e.g. Y_2O_3) should provide further improvement in mechanical properties
- New applications are feasible due to:
  - increased fracture strain
  - good tensile and fracture strain
  - high stiffness
  - high thermal conductivity
  - low thermal expansion
  - high thermal shock resistance
  - anisotropic behaviour of composite according to tailor-made design